Testimony of Brian Merrell - Kuna, ID - merrell3@gmail.com

This map was submitted under the title "Treasure Valley by City 2 3" on 9/15/21.

This map creates 14 districts (districts 10 thru 23) out of the three southwest counties of Idaho (Canyon, Ada, & Owyhee). These three counties are within the Treasure Valley and share Cities, School Districts, Civic Organizations, etc. It is my testimony that these three counties could be and should be grouped together when dividing the districts evenly. Additionally, the city boundaries of Star, Nampa, Kuna, and Melba all split the county line between Canyon and Ada Counties. It is my testimony that currently these cities split their representation base on a county line. It should be acceptable for the legislative voting districts to be reapportioned to cross county lines/borders to reunite these cities for the purpose of representation and voting. In the attached map, the city of Star is contained entirely in District 14 (both Canyon and Ada Counties), the cities of Kuna and Melba are also largely made whole in District 22 (both Canyon and Ada Counties) by crossing the county borders.

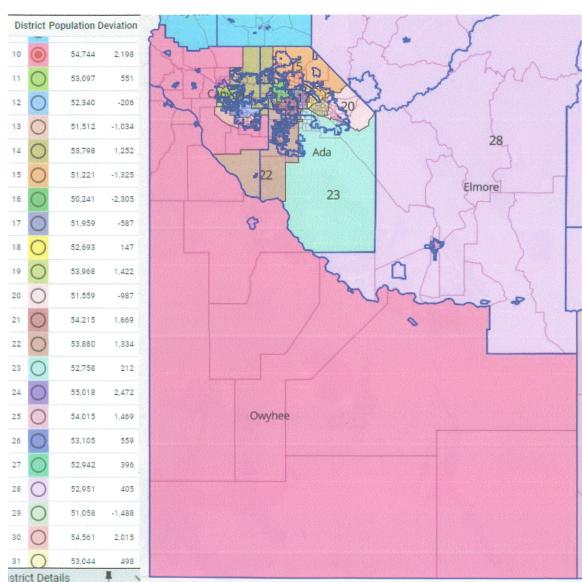
This map reapportions districts based on population centers (cities). Boise & Garden City are apportioned 4 districts. Meridian is apportioned 3 districts. Eagle is apportioned 1 district. Star is apportioned 1 district. Kuna & Melba are apportioned 1 district. Nampa is apportioned 2 districts, Caldwell is apportioned 1 district, and the rural cities of Canyon County and the County of Owyhee are apportioned the final district. As a point of personal privilege, I would like to note that I live at a Kuna, ID mailing address but that my kids are within the legal boundaries of the Melba School District. So, we live in Kuna but go to school play sports and go to church in Melba. We are in-between these two communities and share many social, professional, farming/dairy, and religious connections between both cities. It is my experience that these two communities are well integrated and would be well served voting together in a district (District 22 on this map).

I have seen a fair number of maps to-date reapportioning the rural and farming communities of Ada County to District 23 with Owyhee County. I am a dairyman and we dairy just south of Kuna, ID. On maps where this is suggested, my diary, the 7 neighboring dairymen, their families, and all of the neighboring farmers would no longer vote with the city of Kuna. Likewise, the new neighborhoods recently developed on the south side of Kuna would be reapportioned away from Kuna would no longer vote together with the city. It is my testimony that the entire City of Kuna and surrounding

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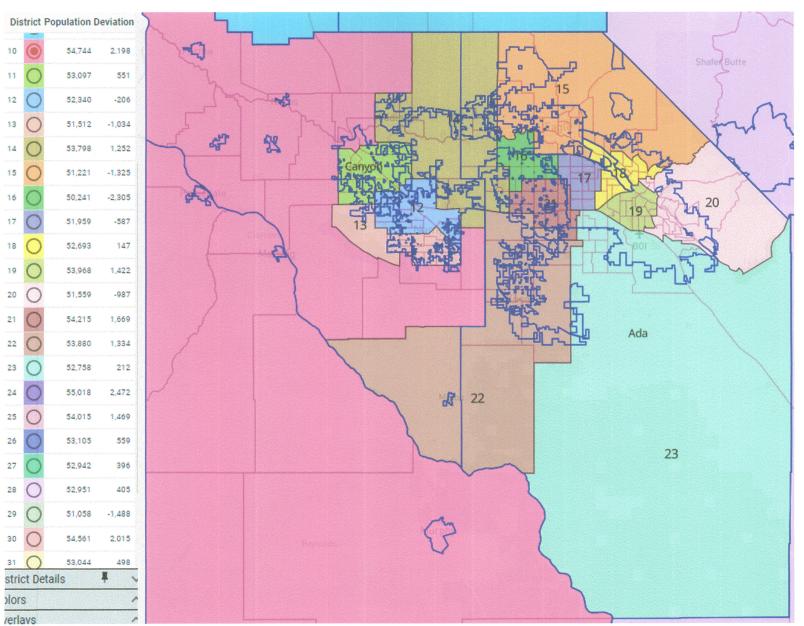
dairies and farmers should be left intact to vote and be represented together. It is not necessary to split us by neither voting precincts nor by county lines.

My final point of testimony is regarding Congressional District maps. I have submitted a few draft maps for consideration. One map divides the state East and West while the other divides it North and South. I do not have a strong opinion on either of these maps but do note that satisfactory maps can be created without dividing counties. If the commission prefers to continue to split Ada County then it seems to me to be an easy division once the Legislative District map is finalized. In this instance, I believe districts could and should remain intact and not be split.



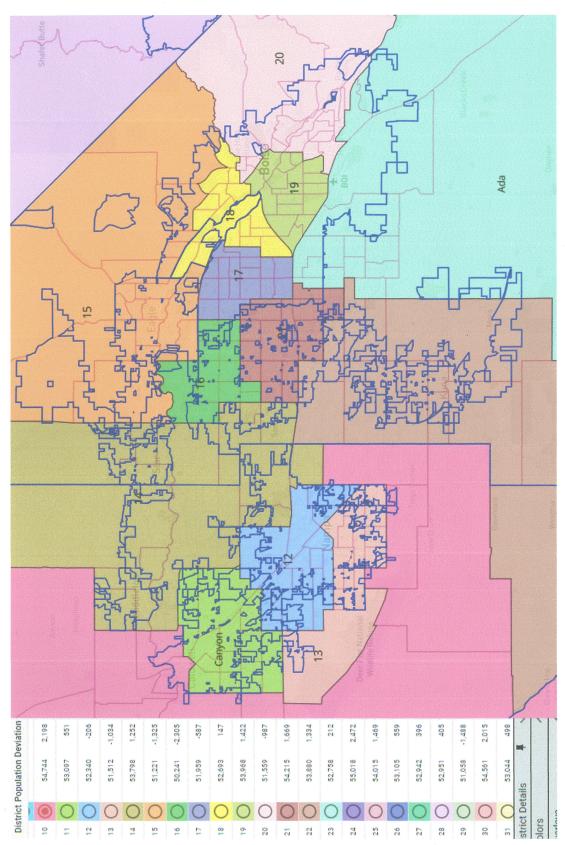
Entire View of Canyon, Ada, and Owyhee Counties

Map with City Boundaries Highlighted



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Zoomed In Map with City Boundaries Highlighted



Zoomed in Map without Cities Boundaries Highlighted

